

vention. The returns from that convention hurt us a great deal worse than the returns from the last election, and it is the hopes of my precinct that W. J. Bryan may yet triumph in his efforts to relieve the common people.

W. G. Greathouse, Wells, Nevada.—I have been a constant reader of The Commoner for several years, and I heartily endorse your plan of organization, and I herewith enclose primary pledge, which I have signed with pleasure. The primaries are the place to correct the evil of misrepresentation. The people should secure men at the primaries who will represent them in conventions.

Wm. M. Mackey, Late of Co. C. Fourteenth Illinois Vol. Infy.—I am no politician, but I served my country faithfully in the late war—lost my good right arm at Vicksburg, Miss., in 1863. I served from early 1861 until the above date and I am a democrat of the W. J. Bryan type. I will use all honorable means in filling up the democratic ranks. Please find pledge enclosed from a worker in the good cause of democracy.

J. M. McNally, Butler, Pa.—Enclosed please find primary pledge filled out and signed, and it is with pleasure I pledge myself for any well doing in the democratic ranks.

W. S. Gilbert, Decatur, Texas.—Enclosed please find my primary pledge; have voted in all elections since I became of age.

Sylvester Fox—Enclosed please find primary pledge. It affords me great pleasure to sign so good a paper. I think the victory is ours in the near future. I think your plan a noble one.

H. E. Wilson, Hamburg, Ia.—Enclosed find the primary pledge, signed. It has been a quandry to me what we were going to do in this county (Fremont) a county that gave a democratic majority of about 800 in 1896 and then elected every republican on the ticket last fall. Of course I am satisfied there are just as many democrats in this county as there was in 1896, but then you can not fool the people with any old thing for a leader, and the sooner the party "gets back to the people," the better. I believe this pledge business is all right.

M. T. Peebles, Unicoi, Tenn.—Please find enclosed primary pledge with my hearty approval, and I do not doubt it—the plan of the pledge—will accomplish much in stimulating the rank and file in their efforts to recover the rights and liberties usurped by two-faced tricksters. But what the American people of all parties and political creeds need most at the present time is a renaissance of the pure and unselfish spirit of patriotism that prevailed in the hearts of the founders of the republic. When Nimrod, the "mighty hunter," usurped the sovereignty of the people and organized the first monarchy among men, he deluded them with the assurance that he was equal with God and if they would submit to his authority in all things he would build a tower to protect them from the next flood. The credulous creatures accepted his crafty trick without considering that the "tower" when built, could only shelter his "majesty and royal family," leaving them out in the cold to paddle their own canoe. And here was the origin of the "divine right of kings" to rule over their fellow men, but it passed on down for four thousand years until October, 1781, when Cornwallis and his army surrendered to the American army at Yorktown, Va. When Washington captured the British and took up their arms any pessimistic idol could see and understand that the "divine right" of George III. to rule the American people without their consent all lay in his parks of artillery and other instruments of death. But the lesson of Yorktown did not profit all the citizens of America and when it was proposed to organize a common government of federated states for all the thirteen colo-

nies, laying its foundation on the fundamental principles of constitutional self government with equal rights to all, regulating the liberties of all by law, men like Alexander Hamilton and the reconstructed Tories of the revolutionary period objected and demanded a limited monarchy, and an elective king. These two ideas of government have come down to our time in full force and are as active today as they were in 1787. Hence the wisdom of Jefferson's admonition, "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty," and the primary pledge will be a powerful weapon in the hands of those who love liberty and seek to preserve and perpetuate it.

John Harrington, Lawyer, Oshkosh, Wis.—Enclosed pledge, although it is a pledge to do only what I have always done. But we should not only desire a declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters desire to speak; we should agitate and educate as to the necessary questions; for the bulk of the voters have not time nor opportunity to investigate.

Geo. L. T. Bliss, Dorchester, Mass.—I sign with pleasure the primary pledge; have always when possible attended the primaries but in the past we have been able to vote only for those whom the machine chose to put up. I am sorry to say the organizers rather have the call with us. I always have been a democrat but have taken more interest in democracy since 1896.

A. F. Archer, Sr., Whigville, Ohio.—I heartily endorse your plan as outlined. It is a step toward preservation of true principles. It is a fortress holding at bay the encroachments of commercialism.

S. A. Black.—I believe a man who will not attend his party's primary has not a correct idea of his political duties. I have not been long a voter, yet I am so far a Bryan democrat, as we call them here. I am also a Missourian, even so by birth.

Edwin O. Pierce, Lawyer, Providence, R. I.—I enclose my primary pledge. A former republican, I voted for Mr. Bryan in 1900 and for Judge Parker in 1904, and now rely upon the democratic party as the best hope for the future. It must apply the Jeffersonian principles to the conditions of the Twentieth century. I echo the declaration of George Fred Williams at Chicago, on Jefferson day: "Public ownership and direct legislation are words enough for the banner which we shall carry hereafter."

H. J. Pawley, Smithville, Mo.—In reading the many letters published in The Commoner, brought out by your primary pledge plan, I am profoundly impressed and more than encouraged for the success of the democratic party in 1908. Coming from all parts of the country, as they do, gives unmistakable evidence that the whole people in every state of the union are thoroughly alive to not only the imperative necessity of organizing the party forces, but are cognizant of the stern reality that a real and formidable danger confronts the people in which the very essence of our institution are involved. The encouraging feature brought out by these letters is the ability and intelligence evidencing the loftiest patriotism pos-

sessed by these thousands of adherents to democratic ideals. In short it shows the people in all parts of our country thoroughly understand the political situation and that they are ready and willing to meet and combat the tendency of commercialism to absorb and control political affairs in

this country, thereby overturning the very foundation of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian government, which result would necessarily put aside the declaration of independence and the constitution. God be with you in the noble work you are doing for the American people.

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